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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/779,880

02/18/2004

Haruki Yoshida

Q79957

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23373 7590 03/31/2006

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,880	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh-Tam T. Le	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7-9,12 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7-9,12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. For further reconsideration, the final action that mailed on 12/23/05 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains: Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-9 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichida et al. (6,851,976) in view of Applicant's submitted Prior Art (APA).

Regarding claim 1, Ichida et al., figures 8 and 9 show a female terminal comprising: a terminal-inserting portion having a bottom wall (41, with an up side down of figure 8, the Examiner interprets that 41 is a bottom wall) and a resilient contact piece portion (38) extending rearwardly from a front end edge (not labeled) of the bottom wall to a free end portion (not labeled);

wherein the resilient contact piece portion including a first curved portion (39) by which the male terminal is clamped; and

wherein the resilient contact piece portion including a beginning portion (not labeled) extending from the front edge to the first curved portion and an intermediate portion (not labeled) extending from the first curved portion, that are provided

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substantially in parallel to the bottom wall at a predetermined clearance, so that the resilient contact piece portion extends substantially parallel to the bottom wall except for the first curved portion.

Ichida et al. disclose the claimed invention as described above except for a convex portion projecting toward the bottom wall is formed at the free end portion of the resilient contact.

APA, figure 3 shows a female contact (1) having a resilient contact (6) with a convex portion (6a) at a free end portion of the resilient contact. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Ichida et al. to have the convex portion, as taught by APA for better connection.

Regarding claim 4, , Ichida et al., figure 8 shows a second curved portion (43) on a top wall (36) of the terminal-inserting portion.

Regarding claim 5, , Ichida et al. disclose the first and second curved portions are opposed to each other.

Regarding claim 7, , Ichida et al. disclose a third curved portion (42, figure 8) is formed on the bottom wall at a position corresponding to the first curved portion.

Regarding claim 8, , Ichida et al. disclose the convex portion having a semi-arc shape in cross-section.

Regarding claim 9, , Ichida et al. disclose the convex portion is spaced from the bottom wall when the male terminal has not been inserted (figure 8).

Regarding claim 12, , Ichida et al. disclose the first curved portion and the convex portion are spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance.

Regarding claim 13, , Ichida et al. disclose two end support points of the resilient contact piece portion are formed so that a distance between the two end support points is kept constant upon insertion of the male terminal.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839